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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Michel DROUX : EXAMINER: YAO, S.

SERIAL NO: 09/774,177 :

FILED: February 2, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1733

FOR: METHOD FOR MAKING A
MAT AND RESULTING
PRODUCTS :

RECEIVED
OCT - 8 2002
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

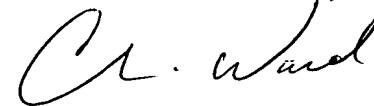
In response to the restriction requirement dated September 5, 2002, the Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group III drawn to a fiber mat and identifies Claims 17-21 as readable on the elected invention.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement since the Applicants submit that the independent claims as a whole presently include a common technical feature that provides a contribution over the prior art. The Applicants submit that the cited references do not destroy the single inventive concept as these documents belong to other technical fields. The Applicants will address any art rejections of the claims in greater detail, if and when such rejections are made.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group of claims be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-21 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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